

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
JUN 07 2007

010/011

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 8, 10-13, and 17-25 are pending in the present application. Via this amendment, Claims 1, 2, 23-25 are amended, Claims 3, 4, 5, 8, 17, 18, 20, 21, and 22 are canceled, and new Claims 26, 27, and 28 have been added. Support for new Claims 26-27 is found in the specification at page 10, lines 5-24 to page 15, line 25. Support for new Claim 28 is found at page 26, lines 9-14. No new matter is added by the amendments. In view of the amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has identified allowable subject matter. Claims 2, 5, 10, 20-22 are objected to but would be directed to patentable subject matter if rewritten in independent form. Claim 19 is allowed.

Claims 3, 4, 8, and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Via this amendment, Claims 3, 4, 8, 17 and 18 have been deleted thereby rendering the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejection moot.

Claims 1, 3-4, 8, 11-13, 17-18, 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by JP 3-182051 to Shinozaki, *et al.* (hereinafter "Shinozaki").

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner. However, to advance prosecution of this case, Applicants have cancelled Claims 5, 20, 21 and 22 herein. Additionally, Claims 1, 23, 24 and 25 have been amended to incorporate the features of allowable Claim 5. Therefore, the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection is rendered moot.

Claims 1, 23, 24 and 25 include the features of Claim 5 and are, therefore, allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 5 is allowable. Claim 2 has been amended to include the features of Claim 1 and is allowable for at least the reasons Claim 1 is now allowable.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



Martha M. Rumore
Reg. No. 47,046
(212) 940-6566

CUSTOMER NO.: 026304

Attorney Docket No.: NECW 20.531 (100806-00222)
MMR:fd